

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have not been amended herein. For the Examiner's convenience, however, a complete listing of the currently pending claims follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An imaging apparatus comprising:

an image data generating unit which generates first image data;

an authentication data generating unit which generates first authentication data from the first image data;

a receiving unit which receives second image data and second authentication data from an external device, wherein both the second image data and the second authentication data are generated by a second imaging apparatus, and the second authentication data is generated from the second image data; and

an authentication unit which has (a) a first authentication mode where said authentication unit authenticates, using the first authentication data, whether the first image data has been altered, and (b) a second authentication mode where said authentication unit authenticates, using the second authentication data, whether the second image data has been altered.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication data generating unit generates the first authentication data using data unique to the imaging apparatus.

4. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication data generating unit generates the first authentication data using secret data held by the imaging apparatus.

5. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication data generating unit generates the first authentication data using a hash function.

6. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication data generating unit generates the first authentication data using a common key cipher.

7. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication unit authenticates, using data unique to the second imaging apparatus, whether the second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered.

8. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication unit authenticates, using secret data held by the imaging apparatus, whether the second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered.

9. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication unit authenticates, using a hash function, whether the second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered.

10. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication unit authenticates, using a common key cipher, whether the second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered.

11. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the imaging apparatus is one of a digital camera, a digital video camera, and a scanner.

12-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storage interface unit which stores the first image data with the first authentication data in a removable storage medium, and stores the second image data with the second authentication data in the removable storage medium.